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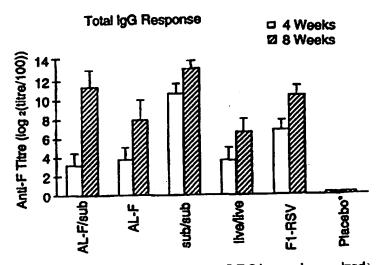
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(54) Title: TWO-STEP IMMUNIZATION PROCEDURE AGAINST THE PYRAMYXOVIRIDAE FAMILY OF VIRUSES USING RECOMBINANT VIRUS AND SUBUNIT PROTEIN PREPARATION

(57) Abstract

immunization strategy provide protection against disease caused by infection with a paramyxoviridae virus, specifically respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and parainfluenza virus, is described. A priming intranasal administration of a recombinant virus expressing at least one RSV or PIV protein or immunogenic sequence thereof first is made to the host followed by a booster administration of at least one purified RSV or PIV protein or immunogenic fragment thereof, which may be adjuvanted with alum. This immunization strategy provides a safe and effective means of controlling RSV and PIV infections. The strategy leads to a stronger protective immune response than other strategies and to the induction of a more balanced Th-1/Th-2 type response than previously attained. Novel recombinant poxviruses are provided containing nucleic acid encoding a paramyxovirus protein or immunogenic fragment thereof in a non-essential region of the poxvirus genome, specifically NYVAC-F and ALVAC-F, which produce the F glycoprotein of RSV.

Anti-RSV F Titres in the Sera of Mice Immunized with Different Prime / Boost Protocols



Placebo control animals (groups 6,7,8,) were immunized according to the protocol outlined in Table 1.

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TITLE OF INVENTION

TWO-STEP IMMUNIZATION PROCEDURE AGAINST THE PYRAMYXOVIRIDAE FAMILY OF VIRUSES USING RECOMBINANT

5 VIRUS AND SUBUNIT PROTEIN PREPARATION

FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to the field of immunology and, in particular, to a vaccination 10 procedure for protection of a host against disease caused by infection with a virus of the paramyxoviridae family, particularly respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

15 Human parainfluenza virus type 1, 2, 3 and human respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) have been identified as the major viral pathogens responsible for severe respiratory tract infections in infants and young children (ref. 1 to 3 - Throughout this specification, 20 various references are referred to in parenthesis to more fully describe the state of the art to which this invention pertains. Full bibliographic information for each citation is found at the end of the specification, immediately following the claims. The disclosures of 25 these references are hereby incorporated by reference into the present disclosure). RSV has also been reported to cause morbidity significant immunocompromised individuals and the elderly. 65 million infections occur every year resulting in 30 160,000 deaths (ref. 4). In the USA alone, 100,000 children are hospitalized annually with severe cases of pneumonia and bronchiolitis resulting from infection (refs. 5, 6). Inpatient and ambulatory care for children with RSV infections has been estimated to 35 cost in excess of \$340 million each year in the USA . (ref. 7). Severe lower respiratory tract disease due to RSV infection predominantly occurs in infants two to six months of age (ref. 8). The World Health Organization

and the National Institute of Allergy and (WHO) Infectious Disease (NIAID) vaccine advisory committees have ranked RSV second only to HIV for vaccine development while the preparation of an efficacious PIV-5 3 vaccine is ranked in the top ten vaccines considered a priority for vaccine development. Both the annual morbidity and mortality figures as well as the staggering health care costs for managing paramyxoviridae infections including RSV have provided 10 the incentive for aggressively pursuing the development of efficacious RSV vaccines.

RSV is a member of the Paramyxoviridae family of the pneumovirus genus (ref. 2). The two major protective antigens of RSV are the envelope fusion (F) 15 and attachment (G) glycoproteins (ref. 9).

In addition to the antibody response generated by the F and G glycoproteins, human cytotoxic T-cells have been shown to recognize the F protein RSV matrix (M) protein, nucleoprotein (N), small hydrophobic protein (SH) and nonstructural protein (lb) (ref. 10), produced following RSV infection. For PIV-3, the protective immunogen are the hemagglutinin-neuramidase (HN) protein and the fusion (F) protein.

Previous attempts to produce a safe and effective 25 RSV vaccine were unsuccessful. Production of live attenuated RSV vaccines has had limited success. The mutants prepared to date have all been either overattenuated, virulent or genetically unstable. A formalin-inactivated (FI) RSV vaccine developed in the 1960's failed to provide adequate protection in clinical trials (refs. 8, 11, 12). In fact, immunization of seronegative infants with the FI-RSV vaccine resulted in the exacerbation of RSV disease (immunopotentiation) in some vaccinees following exposure to wild type virus.

35 Identification of the major immunoprotective antigens of RSV has provided the scientific rationale for pursuing a

subunit approach to RSV vaccine development. However, efficacy of the RSV subunit vaccines tested to date have been inconsistent (ref. 12). There is also conflicting reports in the literature on the ability of an alum-5 adjuvanted RSV vaccine containing the F protein purified cells by immunoaffinity infected from virus enhanced pulmonary chromatography (PFP-1) to cause (immunopotentiation) following live pathology challenge (ref. 13 and 14). There is a definite of safe and the development for 10 requirement efficacious RSV vaccine.

One of the main obstacles in developing a safe and effective RSV vaccine has been to produce a vaccine formulation that can elicit a protective immune response 15 without causing exacerbated disease. Elucidation of the mechanism(s) involved in the potentiation of RSV disease important for the design of safe RSV vaccines, especially for the seronegative population. experimental evidence suggests that an imbalance contribute responses 20 cell-mediated may immunopotentiation (ref. 15). Enhanced histopathology observed in mice that were immunized with the FI-RSV and challenged with virus could be abrogated by depletion of CD4+ cells or both interleukin-4 (IL-4) and IL-10 (ref. Experimental results indicated that induction of a 25 16). response may role in type play a BALB/c mice given live virus intranasally potentiation. intramuscularly elicited a Th-1 type response, whereas FI-RSV induced a Th-2 type of response. 30 results were recently substantiated by the finding that BALB/c mice that were immunized with the FI-RSV vaccine had a marked increase in the expression of mRNA (from cells in the bronchoalveolar lavage fluid) for the Th-2 cytokines IL-5 and IL-13 (ref. 17).

35 Studies on the development of live viral vaccines and glycoprotein subunit vaccines against parainfluenza

virus infection are being pursued. Clinical trial results with a formalin-inactivated PIV types 1,2,3 vaccine demonstrated that this vaccine efficacious (refs. 33, 34, 35). Further development of 5 chemically-inactivated vaccines was discontinued after clinical trials with a formalin-inactivated RSV vaccine demonstrated that not only was the vaccine not effective in preventing RSV infection but many of the vaccinees who later became infected with RSV suffered a more 10 serious disease. Most of parainfluenza vaccine research has focussed on candidate PIV-3 vaccines (ref. 36) with significantly less work being reported for PIV-1 and PIV-2. Recent approaches to PIV-3 vaccines have included the use of closely related bovine the 15 parainfluenza virus type 3 and the generation attenuated viruses by cold-adaptation of the virus (refs. 37, 38, 39, 40).

Another approach to parainfluenza virus type 3 vaccine development is a subunit approach focusing on 20 the surface glycoproteins hemagglutinin-neuraminidase (HN) and the fusion (F) protein (refs. 41, 42, 43). The HN antigen, a typical type II glycoprotein, exhibits both haemagglutination and neuraminidase activities and is responsible for the attachment of the virus to sialic 25 acid containing host cell receptors. The type I F glycoprotein mediates fusion of the viral envelope with the cell membrane as well as cell to cell spread of the It has recently been demonstrated that both the HN and F glycoproteins are required for membrane fusion. 30 The F glycoprotein is synthesized as an inactive precursor (F) which is proteolytically cleaved into disulfide-linked F2 and F1 moieties. While the HN and F proteins of PIV-1, 2 and 3 are structurally similar, are antigenically distinct. Neutralizing 35 antibodies against the HN and F proteins of one PIV type are not cross-protective. Thus, an effective PIV

subunit vaccine must contain the HN and F glycoproteins from the three different types of parainfluenza viruses. Antibody to either glycoprotein is neutralizing in A direct correlation has been observed between 5 the level of neutralizing antibody titres and resistance to PIV-3 infections in infants. Native subunit vaccines for parainfluenza virus type 3 have investigated the protectiveness of the two surface glycoproteins. Typically, the glycoproteins are extracted from virus 10 using non-ionic detergents and further purified using immunoaffinity lectin affinity or chromatographic However, neither of these techniques may be methods. entirely suitable for large scale production of vaccines under all circumstances. In small animal protection 15 models (hamsters and cotton rats), immunization with the glycoproteins was demonstrated to prevent infection with live PIV-3 (refs. 44, 45, 46, 47, 48). The HN and F glycoproteins of PIV-3 have also been produced using recombinant DNA technology. HN and F glycoproteins have 20 been produced in insect cells using the baculovirus expression system and by the use of vaccinia virus and adenovirus recombinants (refs. 49, 50, 51, 52, 53). the baculovirus expression system, both full-length and truncated forms of the PIV-3 glycoproteins as well as a 25 chimeric F-HN fusion protein have been expressed. The recombinant proteins have been demonstrated to protective in small animal models (see WO91/00104, Patent Application No. 07/773,949 filed November 29, 1991, assigned to the assignee hereof).

The construction of the recombinant poxviruses is described in a number of granted United States patents, including U.S. Patents Nos. 4,603,112, 4,769,330, 4,722,848 and 5,110,587 relating to various recombinant virus constructs, U.S. Patents Nos. 5,453,364, 5,225,336 and 5,155,020 relating to attenuated recombinant vaccinia virus constructs and U.S. Patent No. 5,174,993

relating to recombinant avipox virus constructs. The disclosure of these patents are incorporated herein by reference.

Live recombinant poxviruses expressing the relevant 5 viral proteins may be used alone or as priming immunogens in a prime/boost regime with the subunit Despite having promising attributes as a "universal" immunization vehicle, safety issues have provided a concern for the re-introduction of vaccinia 10 virus as an immunizing agent. These concerns stem from complications observed during the Smallpox Eradication Program (ref. 18). From one perspective, the safety issues surrounding the use of vaccinia-based vaccine candidates have been addressed with the development of 15 the NYVAC and ALVAC vectors.

The NYVAC strain was derived from the vaccinia virus Copenhagen strain by the precise deletion of 18 ORFs encoding functions implicated in the pathogenicity of orthopoxviruses, as well as host-range regulatory 20 functions governing the replication competency of these viruses on cells from certain species (ref. 19). General biological properties of NYVAC include: 1] a highly debilitated replicative capacity on cells derived from mice, swine, equids, and humans; 2] the ability to 25 replicate with wildtype efficiency on primary chick embryo fibroblasts; and 3) a highly attenuated phenotype in immunocompetent and immunocompromised animal systems used historically to assess the virulence of vaccinia virus strains (ref. 19). Despite these 30 attenuated properties, NYVAC has been shown to function effectively as an immunization vehicle (ref. 19, 20). These properties are consistent with NYVAC providing a safer alternative to existing vaccinia virus vaccine strains for developing vector-based vaccine candidates. 35 the attenuation profile of

Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee of the

Institutes of Health has reduced the biological containment level of this virus from BSL-2 to BSL-1. It is the only member of the *Orthopoxvirus* genus accorded a BSL-1 biocontainment level.

The basic vaccinia virus vector technology has been extended to other members of the poxvirus family. Extension to the Avipoxvirus genus, in particular fowlpoxvirus (FPV), was targeted for species-specific applications in the poultry industry (ref. 21). Studies 10 with a FPV recombinant expressing an immunogen from a mammalian pathogen (the rabies virus glycoprotein G), however, demonstrated the ability of this recombinant to elicit immune responses in a number of non-avian species (ref. 22), thus establishing these viruses as viable 15 candidates for developing non-replicating vector-based vaccine candidates for veterinary and human application. The inability of the Avipoxviruses to productively replicate in non-avian species provides an exquisite safety barrier against the occurrence of 20 associated and vaccine-induced complications.

Subsequent studies with canarypoxvirus (CPV)-based recombinants in non-avian species also demonstrated their utility as immunization vehicles (refs. 23, 24). In this regard the canarypoxvirus-based recombinants were found superior to similar FPV recombinants and equivalent to thymidine-kinase mutants of replication-competent vaccinia virus recombinants (refs. 19, 24). A plaque-cloned isolate of CPV was derived from the vaccine strain Kanapox and designated ALVAC (ref. 19).

ALVAC, like NYVAC, has demonstrated a highly attenuated phenotype in a number of animal systems comparing existing vaccinia virus vaccine strains (ref. 19). The Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee has reduced the biological containment for ALVAC to BSL-1.

35 Furthermore, ALVAC has been shown to be an effective immunization vehicle in a number of non-avian species

including humans (ref. 25). The concept of using a nonreplicating vector in humans was supported by the results of phase I clinical trials using an ALVAC-based rabies G (ref. 26) and an ALVAC-HIV-1_{MN} env (ref. 27) 5 recombinant. In each study, the ALVAC-based recombinant elicited antigen-specific immune responses Thus, the use of either ALVAC or heterologous antigen. NYVAC recombinants expressing the pertinent RSV proteins represents a promising approach for RSV vaccine 10 development.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provide a novel immunization strategy to provide protection against disease caused by infection and members of the Paramyxoviridae family, particularly respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and parainfluenza virus (PIV). The immunization strategy provided herein leads to a stronger protective immune response than other strategies.

According to one aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of immunizing a host against disease caused by infection by a paramyxoviridae viruses, which comprises:

initially administering to the host an 25 immunoeffective amount of a recombinant virus expressing at least one paramyxoviridae virus protein or immunogenic fragment thereof, and

subsequently administering to the host an immunoeffective amount of at least one purified 30 paramyxoviridae protein or immunogenic fragment thereof of the same at least one paramyxoviridae protein as used in the initial administration. to achieve paramyxovirus specific protective immune response in the host.

35 The immune response which is achieved in the host by the method of the invention preferably includes the

production of virus specific neutralizing antibodies and specific cytotoxic T-cell responses. immunization strategy employed herein priming with the boosting with the protein recombinant virus and 5 preparation leads to the induction of a more balanced anti-F IgG1/IgG2a response than previously obtained, which sets the stage for a more Th-1 type response. addition, the immunization strategy may lead to a more Th-1/Th-2 type response than previously balanced 10 attained.

While the invention is broadly effective with members of the paramyxoviridae family, the invention is preferably effective to provide protection against respiratory tract diseases caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and parainfluenza virus (PIV), in particular respiratory syncytial virus.

The recombinant virus may be a pox virus and may express at least one of the F, G and M proteins of RSV or an immunogenic fragment thereof, particularly the F 20 glycoprotein of RSV.

The purified RSV protein or immunogenic fragment thereof employed in the second or booster administration may be selected from the group consisting of the F, G and M proteins of RSV or immunogenic fragments thereof 25 and may compris a mixture of two or three of these RSV proteins or the immunogenic fragments thereof.

The at least one purified paramyxoviridae protein or immunogenic fragment thereof, including mixtures of the F, G and/or M proteins of RSV or immunogenic fragments thereof, may be administered with an adjuvant or immunomodulator, including alum.

In a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a novel recombinant poxvirus containing therein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a paramyxoviridae protein or immunogenic fragment thereof

in a non-essential region of the recombinant virus genome.

The poxvirus may be a vaccinia virus, in particular one in which non-essential virus-encoded genetic functions have been inactivated therein so as to provide an attenuated vaccinia virus. In one embodiment, such attenuated vaccinia virus may contain a nucleic acid sequence encoding the F glycoprotein of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). One such recombinant vaccinia virus is provided herein and is designated virus vP1000 (NYVAC-F) having the ATCC Deposit No. VR-2540.

Alternatively, the poxvirus may be an avipox virus, which may be a fowlpox virus, which is non-virulent in humans. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence 15 encodes the F glycoprotein of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). One such recombinant avipox virus is provided herein and is designated virus vCP181 (ALVAC-F) having ATCC Deposit No. VR-2541.

The present invention further comprises the use of 20 such recombinant poxvirus as a medicine or in the manufacture of a medicament for immunization.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Figure 1, containing panels a and b, shows SDS-PAGE 25 analysis of a purified RSV A subunit preparation using acrylamide gels stained with silver, under both reduced (panel (a)) and non-reduced (panel (b)) conditions;

Figure 2, containing panels a, b, c and d, shows Western blot analysis of a purified RSV subunit 30 preparation under reduced conditions;

Figure 3, containing panels a, b, c and d, shows Western blot analysis of a purified RSV subunit preparation under non-reduced conditions;

Figure 4 shows the nucleotide sequence of the 35 recombinant pox virus vCP181 (SEQ ID No. 21) (ALVAC-F), an H6-promoted RSV-F gene insertion with flanking

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sequences. The H6 promoter commences at position 202. The RSV-F gene starts at position 326 and ends at position 2048;

Figure 5 shows the nucleotide sequence of the 5 recombinant poxvirus virus vP1000 (SEQ ID No: 22) (NYVAC-F), an H6 promoted RSV-F gene insertion with flanking sequences. The H6 promoter begins at position 575. The RSV-F gene starts at position 699 and ends at position 2421;

10 Figure 6, containing panels A, B and C, shows the anti-RSV F antibody titres in the sera of mice immunized with different prime/boost protocols, as detailed in Table 1 below;

Figure 7 shows the plaque reduction titres in the 15 sera of mice immunized with different prime/boost protocols, as detailed in Table 1 below; and

Figure 8 shows the cytotoxic T lymphocyte responses in mice immunized with different prime/boost protocols, as detailed in Table 1 below.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

present invention relates to methods of The immunization comprising an initial administration of a expressing least virus at 25 paramyxoviridae virus protein or immunogenic fragment thereof and a subsequent administration of at least one protein or fragment thereof of the same protein of the The recombinant virus vector paramyxoviridae virus. expressing at least one paramyxoviridae virus protein 30 may itself be unable to confer protection. The at least one protein may comprise a mixture of RSV proteins such as G glycoprotein, F glycoprotein, M protein and heterodimers and oligomeric forms of the F and G proteins. Thus, the subsequent administration may be of preparation isolated from subunit RSV viral 35 a concentrates.

Referring to Figures 1 to 3, there is shown an analysis of the composition of a RSV subunit preparation by SDS-PAGE analysis (Figure 1) and Western blot (Figures 2 and 3). The isolation of this preparation from RSV viral concentrate is described below. A typical composition of the RSV subunit preparation determined by densitometric scanning is:

G glycoprotein (95 kDa form) 10%
F1 glycoprotein (48 kDa) 30%
10 M protein (31 kDa) 23%
F2 glycoprotein (23 kDa) 19%

when analyzed under reducing conditions by SDS-PAGE and silver staining.

As described above the primary (priming) 15 immunization may be by administration of a recombinant virus expressing at least one paramyxoviridae virus The recombinant virus may be a pox virus protein. modified to contain a gene encoding at least a portion of the paramyxoviridae virus protein, such as the RSV F 20 protein. The poxvirus may be attenuated for the usually mammalian host by modification of regions of the poxvirus genome necessary for virulence to produce, for example, a NYVAC-F recombinant virus, such as vP1000. Figure 5 shows the nucleotide sequence of vP1000. In an 25 alternative embodiment, the poxvirus may be virus such as an avipox virus that does not replicate in mammalian hosts, such as a ALVAC-F recombinant virus, such as vPC181. Figure 4 shows the nucleotide sequence of vPC181.

Recombinant avipox viruses containing the gene encoding the F protein of RSV were constructed and used to immunize mice according to the protocols shown in Table 1. Total anti-F IgG, IgGl and IgG2 antibodies were measured in murine sera and the results are shown in Figure 6. The sera from animals that were primed with the ALVAC-F recombinant virus and boosted either

with the ALVAC-F recombinant virus or the subunit preparation had anti-F IgG1/IgG2a ratios of approximately 1:1. This is in contrast to the anti-RSV F IgG1/IgG2a ratios obtained in mice that were primed and boosted with formalin-inactivated RSV (8:1) or subunit vaccine (11:1). The induction of IgG2A in mice is indicative of a Th1 immune response.

The sera of mice primed with the ALVAC-F recombinant virus and boosted with the RSV proteins as a subunit preparation contained high levels of virus neutralizing antibodies as shown by plaque reduction titres (Figure 7). Mice primed with the poxvirus recombinant and then boosted with RSV proteins produced RSV-specific cytotoxic T cells as shown in Figure 8.

Of significance is that mice primed with recombinant pox expressing the RSV F protein and boosted with RSV proteins were protected from challenge with live RSV as shown in Table 2. In particular, mice primed and boosted with ALVAC-F recombinant virus had detectable virus in their lungs whilst no virus could be detected in the lungs of mice that were primed with ALVAC-F and boosted with RSV proteins or an RSV subunit preparation.

The invention extends to the use of a recombinant virus expressing at least one paramyxoviridae virus protein for primary immunization (priming) of a host and the subsequent use of at least one paramyxoviridae virus protein for boosting said host to protect said host against disease caused by paramyxoviridae.

The vaccines are administered in a manner compatible with the dosage formulation, and in such amount as will be therapeutically effective, immunogenic and protective. The quantity to be administered depends on the subject to be treated, including, for example, the capacity of the immune system of the individual to synthesize antibodies, and, if needed, to produce a

cell-mediated immune response. Precise amounts of active ingredient required to be administered depend on the judgment of the practitioner. However, suitable dosage ranges are readily determinable by one skilled in 5 the art and may be of the order of micrograms to milligrams of the proteins or fragments thereof and about 10⁵ - 10⁹ pfu of the combinant virus. The dosage may also depend on the route of administration and will vary according to the size of

10 the host.

Immunogenicity can be significantly improved if the antigens are co-administered with adjuvants. Adjuvants enhance the immunogenicity of an antigen but are not necessarily immunogenic themselves. Adjuvants may act by retaining the antigen locally near the site of administration to produce a depot effect facilitating a slow, sustained release of antigen to cells of the immune system. Adjuvants can also attract cells of the immune system to an antigen depot and stimulate such cells to elicit immune responses.

Immunostimulatory agents or adjuvants have been used for many years to improve the host immune responses to, for example, vaccines. Intrinsic adjuvants, such as lipopolysaccharides, normally are the components of the 25 killed or attenuated bacteria used vaccines. Extrinsic adjuvants are immunomodulators which typically non-covalently linked to antigens and are formulated to enhance the host immune responses. adjuvants have been identified that enhance the immune 30 response to antigens delivered parenterally. these adjuvants are toxic, however, and can cause undesirable side-effects, making them unsuitable for use in humans and many animals. Indeed, only aluminum hydroxide and aluminum phosphate (collectively commonly 35 referred to as alum) are routinely used as adjuvants in human and veterinary vaccines. The efficacy of alum in

increasing antibody responses to diphtheria and tetanus toxoids is well established and a HBsAg vaccine has been adjuvanted with alum. While the usefulness of alum is well established for some applications, it has 5 limitations. For example, alum is ineffective for influenza vaccination and usually does not elicit a cell mediated immune response. The antibodies elicited by alum-adjuvanted antigens are mainly of the IgG1 isotype in the mouse, which may not be optimal for protection by 10 some vaccinal agents.

A wide range of extrinsic adjuvants can provoke potent immune responses to antigens. These include aluminum phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, QS21, Quil A, derivatives and components thereof, calcium phosphate, 15 calcium hydroxide, zinc hydroxide, a glycolipid analog, octodecyl ester of an amino acid, dipeptide, polyphosphazene, a lipoprotein, ISCOM matrix, DC-Chol, DDA, and other adjuvants and bacterial toxins, components and derivatives thereof as, for example, Application No. 08/481,878, 20 described in U.S. assigned to the assignee hereof and the 95/34323) disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference thereto. Under particular circumstances adjuvants that induce a Thl response are desirable.

The at least one purified paramyxovirus protein or immunogenic fragment thereof used in the booster administration may be provided in any convenient manner. For example, the protein, proteins or immunogenic fragments may be extracted from cellular material, such as by detergent extraction, and may be purified by affinity chromatography, as described, for example, in aforementioned U.S. Patent Application No. 07/773949, WO 91/00104. Alternatively, an immunoaffinity purification procedure may be used.

Alternatively, the protein, proteins or immunogenic fragments thereof may be prepared recombinantly by

expression of the protein or fragment thereof from a suitable vector with subsequent purification of the expressed material. Suitable vectors and expression systems are described, for example, in WO 87/04185.

In general, plasmid vectors containing replicon and 5 sequences which are derived from compatible with the host cell may be used for the expression of the relevant genes in expression systems. The vector ordinarily carries a replication site, 10 well as marking sequences which are capable of providing phenotypic selection in transformed cells. concerning the nucleotide sequences of promoters are enabling a skilled worker known, to ligate them functionally with the relevant genes. The particular 15 promoter used will generally be a matter of choice depending upon the desired results. Hosts that are appropriate for expression of the relevant genes and immunogenic fragments thereof include bacteria, eukaryotic cells, fungi, yeast or the baculovirus 20 expression system may be used.

It may be preferred to make the relevant protein or immunogenic fragment thereof, particularly when the naturally occurring protein as purified from a culture may include trace amounts of toxic materials or other contaminants. This problem may be avoided by using recombinantly produced protein in heterologous systems which can be isolated from the host in a manner to minimize contaminants in the purified material.

30 Biological Deposits

Certain recombinant pox viruses that are described and referred to herein have been deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) located at 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852, USA pursuant to the Budapest Treaty and prior to the filing of this application. Samples of the deposited viruses will

become available to the public and all restrictions imposed on access to the deposits will be removed upon grant of a patent on this application. Samples of the deposit will be prepared if the depository is unable to dispense viable samples. The invention described and claimed herein is not to be limited in scope by recombinant viruses deposited, since the deposited embodiment is intended only as an illustration of the invention. Any equivalent or similar recombinant virus are within the scope of the invention.

Deposit Summary

Recombinant Virus	ATCC Designation	Date Deposited	
vP1000 (NYVAC-F)	VR-2540	July 12, 1996	
cVP181 (ALVAC-F)	VR-2541	July 12, 1996	

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EXAMPLES

generally describes above disclosure The present invention. A more complete understanding can be following to the obtained reference by These Examples are described solely for Examples. 20 purposes of illustration and are not intended to limit Changes in form and the scope of the invention. contemplated are equivalents substitution of circumstances may suggest or render expedient. Although specific terms have been employed herein, such terms are 25 intended in a descriptive sense and not for purposes of limitations.

Example 1

This Example describes the generation of the ALVAC 30 recombinant containing the RSV-F gene.

Plasmid pSKF7, containing the coding sequence for the RSV type A fusion glycoprotein (RSV-F), was obtained

from Institute Merieux, Lyon, France. RSV-F coding sequences, from plasmid pSKF7, were placed under control of a vaccinia virus promoter by joining fragments which had been amplified by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (ref. 28). The modified vaccinia virus early/late H6 promoter (ref. 29), followed by the 5' base pairs of the RSV F gene, was amplified by PCR from plasmid pRW825 containing the H6 promoter sequence. Oligonucleotide primers RW325 (5'-GATTGAGGATCCTTAATTAGTGATAC-3')

- 10 (SEQ ID No: 1) and RW326 (5'-TGCATTTGCTTTGAGGATTAGCAACTCCATTACGATACAAACTTA-3') (SEQ ID No: 2) were used in a PCR, with plasmid template pRW825, to generate a 200bp H6 promoter fragment with the translation initiation codon of the H6 promoter
- overlapping the RSV F translation initiation codon.
 Oligonucleotide RW325 contains a BamHI site followed by a sequence which primes 5' of the H6 promoter toward the H6 promoter 3' base pairs. Oligonucleotide primer RW326 contains the 5' base pairs of RSV F followed by a
- 20 sequence which primes from the H6 translation initiation codon toward the H6 promoter 5' base pairs.

Oligonucleotide RW327 (5'-ATGGAGTTGCTAATCCTC-3') (SEQ ID No: 3) primes from the RSV-F gene translation initiation codon toward the RSV-F 3' end of the RSV F

- 25 gene coding sequence. Oligonucleotide RW328 (5'-GGGAATACTAATGGGCTTGATATTACTTAATTC-3') (SEQ ID No: 4) primes from the RSV-F gene codon 65 toward the RSV-F 5' base pairs. Template plasmid pSKF7 was used in a PCR with the oligonucleotide primers RW327 and RW328,
- 30 yielding a 220bp fragment containing the 5' base pairs of RSV F gene. The 3' base pairs of the PCR fragment derived with RW327 and RW328 overlap the 5' base pairs of the following PCR fragment derived with the oligonucleotide primers RW329 and RW330.
- 35 The 5' base pairs of oligonucleotide RW329 (5'-TTAAGTAATATCAAGCCCATTAGTATTCCCCTC-3') (SEQ ID No: 5)

contains the reverse complement of RW328 followed by a sequence which primes toward the RSV F gene 3' base pairs. The 5' base pairs of oligonucleotide RW330 (5'-GGTACTTGGAAGCTTTCAGTTACTAAATGCAAT-3') (SEQ ID No: 6) 5 contains a HindIII site, followed by a sequence which primes from the RSV-F stop codon toward the RSV F gene 5' base pairs. Oligonucleotide primers RW329 and RW330 were used in a PCR with the template pSKF7. The 5' base pairs of the resultant 330bp RW329/RW330 PCR amplified 10 fragment overlaps the 3' base pairs of the RW327/RW328 PCR product, followed by the 3' base pairs of RSV F gene.

The three overlapping PCR products derived with the primer pairs RW325/RW326, RW327/RW328, and RW329/RW330 15 were pooled and used as a PCR template with the primers The resultant PCR, amplified with the RW325 and RW330. primers RW325/RW330, fused the three template fragments into one fragment containing the H6 promoted 5' base pairs of the RSV F gene followed by the 3' base pairs of Addition of the central RSV-F coding sequences is described below. The RW325/RW330 PCR fragment was digested with NruI (within the H6 promoter) and HindIII (3' of RSV-F gene) for insertion between the NruI and HindIII sites of the H6 promoter vector pRW880. The resultant plasmid, pRW884, contains the H6 promoted RSV F gene 5' base pairs followed by the 3' base pairs. The following RW358/RW330 PCR amplified fragment was used to add the central RSV-F coding sequences to pRW884.

The poxvirus early transcription termination signal TTTTTNT (ref. 30) was altered within the RSV-F gene coding sequence, without changing the amino acid coding sequence, with a PCR fragment amplified with the oligonucleotide primers RW358/RW330. The RW358/RW330 PCR fragment was derived from two overlapping PCR fragments in the following manner.

The RSV-F gene central coding sequence contains a poxvirus early transcription termination signal. The TTTTTNT sequence was inactivated by base substitution which did not change the amino acid sequence but will prevent early transcriptional termination in a poxvirus vector. Plasmid pRW884 was designed for insertion of the RSV-F central coding sequence, with an inactivated TTTTTNT, as a SpeI-NdeI fragment. Poor efficiency of pRW884 digestion with NdeI resulted in a change of strategy from the SpeI-NdeI fragment to utilization of the following SpeI-HindIII fragment.

Oligonucleotides RW356 (5'-AGATTTCTTGGTTTCCTGTTAGGTGTTGGATC-3') (SEQ ID No: 7) and RW330 (5'-GGTACTTGGAAGCTTTCAGTTACTAAATGCAAT-3') (SEQ ID 15 No: 6) primed plasmid template pSKF7 for PCR. The 5' base pairs of RW356 contains the poxvirus transcription termination signal sequence TTTTTGT, which has been inactivated by alteration to TTCCTGT, followed by a sequence which primes toward the RSV F gene 3' most 20 base pairs. RW330 contains a HindIII site followed by a sequence which primes from the RSV-F gene stop codon toward the RSV F 5' base pairs. The resultant 1.3kbp RW356/RW330 PCR amplified fragment contains the 3' base pairs of RSV F gene. The 5' end of the fragment 25 overlaps the 3' end of the following RW357/RW358 PCR amplified fragment.

Oligonucleotides RW358 (5'-TCTTAGTGCTCTAAGAAC-3') (SEO ID No: 8.) and RW357 (5'-TCCAACACCTAACAGGAAACCAAGAAATCTTC-3') (SEO ID No: 30 primed plasmid template pSKF7 for PCR, yielding a 300bp The 5' base pairs of RW357 contains the fragment. complement reverse the altered poxvirus of transcription termination signal followed by a sequence which primes toward the 5' most base pairs of RSV F Oligonucleotide RW358 primes from the 5' base pairs of RSV F gene toward the 3' base pairs of RSV-F gene.

The two overlapping PCR products amplified with the primer pairs RW356/RW330 or RW357/RW358 were pooled and 5 used as a PCR template with the primers RW358 and RW330. The resultant 1.6kbp RW358/RW330 PCR amplified fragment, containing the 3' base pairs of RSV F gene and an inactivated poxvirus early transcription termination signal, was digested with SpeI and HindIII, yielding a 1.56kbp fragment. The 1.56kbp SpeI/HindIII digested RW358/RW330 PCR amplified fragment was inserted between the SpeI and HindIII sites of pRW884. The resultant plasmid pRW887 contains the H6 promoted RSV-F gene open reading frame flanked by NotI restriction sites.

15 Plasmid pC6L was used as a vector for the H6 promoted RSV-F gene from pRW887. Plasmid pC6L was constructed by deleting the C6 ORF and replacing it with multiple cloning sites flanked by transcriptional and translational termination signals in the following A 380 bp PCR fragment was amplified from 20 manner. genomic ALVAC DNA using oligonucleotide primers C6A1 (5'-ATCATCGAGCTCGCGGCCGCCTATCAAAAGTCTTAATGAGTT-3') (SEQ ID (5'-No: 10) and C6B1 GAATTCCTCGAGCTGCAGCCCGGGTTTTTATAGCTAATTAGTCATTTTTTCGTAAG 25 TAAGTATTTTTATTTAA-3') (SEQ ID No: 11). A 1155 bp PCR fragment was amplified from genomic ALVAC DNA using oligonucleotide primers C6C1 (5'-CCCGGGCTGCAGCTCGAGGAATTCTTTTTTTTTTTTATTGATTAACTAGTCAAATGAGTATAT ATAATTGAAAAAGTAA-3') (SEQ ID No: 12) and C6D1 (5'-30 GATGATGGTACCTTCATAAATACAAGTTTGATTAAACTTAAGTTG-3') ID No: 13). The 380 bp and 1155 bp fragments were fused by adding them together as a template and amplifying a 1613 bp PCR fragment using oligonucleotide primers C6A1 and C6D1. This fragment was digested with SacI/KpnI and 35 ligated into pBluescript SK+ digested with SacI/KpnI. The resulting plasmid, pC6L was confirmed by DNA

sequence analysis. It consists of 370 bp of ALVAC DNA upstream of C6, vaccinia early termination signal, translation stop codons in six reading frames, multiple cloning sites containing SmaI, PstI, XhoI and EcoRI 5 sites, vaccinia early termination signal, translation stop codons in six reading frames and 1156 bp of downstream ALVAC sequence.

The 1.9kbp pRW887 NotI fragment, containing the H6 promoted RSV-F gene expression cassette, was blunt ended 10 with Klenow DNA polymerase in the presence of 20mM dNTPs and inserted into the Smal site of the ALVAC C6 donor The resultant plasmid pRW927 contains the plasmid pC6L. H6 promoted RSV-F open reading frame in a C6 donor Plasmid pRW927 was plasmid. used in in 15 recombination experiments with ALVAC as the rescuing virus to yield vCP181.

Example 2

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This Example describes the construction of the 20 NYVAC recombinant containing the RSV-F gene.

The H6 promoted RSV-F gene expression cassette was moved into the NYVAC donor plasmid pSD544. pSD544 was constructed in the following manner. is a subclone of Copenhagen vaccinia DNA containing the 25 HA gene (ref. 31) and surrounding regions. pSD456 was used as a template in PCR for synthesis of left and right vaccinia arms flanking the A56R ORF. The left arm was synthesized using oligonucleotides MPSYN279 CCCCCGAATTCGTCGACGATTGTTCATGATGGCAAGAT-3') (SEQ ID No: and MPSYN280 (5' -TGATTTATTTTT-3') (SEQ ID No: 15). The right arm was synthesized using oligonucleotides MPSYN281 (5'-AAGCTTGGTACCCTCGAGGGATCCCCCGGGTAGCTAACTTTTTCTTTTACGTA 35 TTATA TATGTAATAAACGTTC-3') (SEQ ID No: 16) and MPSYN312

(5'-TTTTTTCTGCAGGTAAGTATTTTTAAAACTTCTAACACC-3') (SEQ ID

No: 17). The purified PCR fragments for the left and right arms were combined in a further PCR reaction. The resulting product was digested with *EcoRI/HindIII*. The resulting 0.9 kb fragment was cloned into *EcoRI/HindIII* 5 digested pUC8 resulting in plasmid pSD544.

previously described 1.9kbp pRW887 NotI fragment, containing the H6 promoted RSV F aene expression cassette, was blunt ended with Klenow DNA polymerase in the presence of 20mM dNTPs and inserted 10 into the Smal site of the vaccinia virus HA donor plasmid pSD544. The resultant plasmid pRW891 contains the H6 promoted RSV-F gene open reading frame in an HA donor plasmid. Plasmid pRW891 was used in in vitro recombination experiments with NYVAC as the rescuing 15 virus to yield vP1000.

Example 3

This Example describes the expression analysis of vCP181 (ALVAC-F recombinant virus) and vP1000 (NYVAC-F recombinant virus).

Immunoprecipitation analysis was performed to assay RSV-F expression in vCP181 (ALVAC-F) and vP1000 (NYVAC-F) infected cells. Authentic RSV-F is expressed as an F_0 (68-70kDa) precursor which is cleaved, yielding the 25 products $F_1(46kDa)$ and F_2 (22kDa). Polypeptide species corresponding to proteins with molecular weights consistent with F_0 , F_1 , and F_2 in lysates derived from vCP181 and vP1000 infected cells were detected using rabbit anti-RSV antiserum.

More specifically, HeLa, MRC-5, or CEF cells were labelled with 20-50μCi/ml ³⁵S methionine (NEN, Boston, MA) and infected with recombinant or control virus at an MOI of 10. Rabbit anti-RSV F antiserum (Paster Merieux, 46-3-S9 du 30.08.89) was used in immunoprecipitations at dilutions of 1:10 to 1:100. Negligible reactivity was obtained, at molecular weights consistent with F₀, F₁,

and F_2 , from cells infected with the control viruses ALVAC or NYVAC. Both vCP181 (ALVAC-F) and vP1000 (NYVAC-F) were positive for RSV-F expression. The vCP181 or vP1000 infected cells yielded antigens of the 5 appropriate sizes for RSV-F₀, F₁, and F₂.

Example 4

This Example illustrates the process of purifying RSV proteins.

10 African Green monkey kidney cells (VERO) concentration of 10⁵ cells/mL were added to 60L of CMRL 1969 medium, pH 7.2 in a 150L bioreactor containing 360 g of Cytodex-1 microcarrier beads and stirred for 2 hours. An additional 60L of CMRL 1969 was added to give 15 a total volume of 120L. Fetal bovine serum was added to achieve a final concentration of 3.5%. Glucose was added to a final concentration of 3 g/L and L-glutamine was added to a final concentration of 0.6 q/L. Dissolved oxygen (40%), pH (7.2), agitation (36 rpm), 20 temperature (37°C) were controlled. Cell growth, glucose, lactate, and glutamine levels were monitored. At day 4, the culture medium was drained from the fermenter and 100L of E199 media (without fetal bovine serum) was added and stirred for 10 minutes. 25 fermenter was drained and filled again with 120 L of The RSV inoculum was added at a multiplicity of infection (M.O.I.) of 0.001 and the culture was then maintained for 3 days before one-third to one-half of the media was drained and replaced with fresh media. 30 day 6 post-infection, the stirring was stopped and the beads allowed to settle. The viral culture fluid was drained and filtered through a 20 µm filter followed by a 3 µm filter prior to further processing. clarified viral harvest was concentrated 75-150 fold 35 using tangential flow ultrafiltration with 300 NMWL membranes and diafiltered with phosphate buffered saline

containing 10% glycerol. The viral concentrate was stored frozen at -70°C prior to further purification. A solution of 50% polyethylene glycol-8000 was added to an aliquot of virus concentrate to give final 5 concentration of 6%. After stirring at room temperature for one hour, the mixture was centrifuged at 15,000 RPM for 30 min. in a Sorvall SS-34 rotor at 4°C. instances the viral pellet was suspended in 1 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.8, 2 M urea, 0.15 M NaCl, stirred for 1 10 hour at room temperature, and then recentrifuged at 15,000 RPM for 30 min. in a Sorvall SS-34 rotor at 4°C. The viral pellet was then suspended in 1mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.8, 50 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100 and stirred for 30 min. at room temperature. The insoluble 15 virus core was removed by centrifugation at 15,000 RPM for 30 min. in a Sorval SS-34 rotor at 4°C. The soluble protein supernatant was applied to a column of ceramic hydroxyapatite (type II, Bio-Rad Laboratories) and the column was then washed with five column volumes of 1 mM 20 sodium phosphate, pH 6.8, 50 mM NaCl, 0.02% Triton X-100. The RSV proteins were obtained by eluting the column with 10 column volumes of 1 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.8, 400 mM NaCl, 0.02% Triton X-100.

The RSV proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE using 25 12.5% acrylamide gels and by immunoblotting. were electrophoresed in the presence or absence of the reducing agent 2-mercaptoethanol. Gels were stained with silver stain to detect the viral proteins (Figures and 1b). Immmunoblots of replicate gels were 30 prepared and probed with a mouse monoclonal antibody (mAb 5353C75) to F glycoprotein (Figures 2a and 3a), or mouse monoclonal antibody (mAb 131-2G), glycoprotein (Figures 2b and 3b) or guinea pig anti-(qp178) against an RSV M peptide 35 sequence: LKSKNMLTTVKDLTMKTLNPTHDIIALCEFEN - SEQ ID No: 20) (Figures 2c and 3c), or goat anti-serum (Virostat #0605) against whole RSV (Figures 2d and 3d).

Densitometric analysis of the silver-stained gel of RSV subunit preparation electrophored under reducing conditions indicated a compositional distribution as 5 follows:

G glycoprotein (95 kDa form) = 10 %

 F_1 glycoprotein (48 kDa) = 30 %

M protein (31 kDa) = 23 %

 F_2 glycoprotein (23 kDa) = 19 %

10 The F glycoprotein migrates under non-reducing conditions as a heterodimer of approximately 70 kDa (F_0) as well as higher oligomeric forms (dimers and trimers) (Figure 3a).

15 Example 5

This Example describes the immunization of animals by priming with the ALVAC-F recombinant virus and boosting with RSV proteins.

Pathogen-free BALB/c mice (approximately 8 weeks 20 old; 17 animals per group) were immunized according to the immunization protocol outlined in Table 1.

Animals were bled 4 weeks after the primary inoculation and boosted with the vaccine formulation outlined in Table 1. Serum samples were also taken 4 25 weeks after the booster dose. The anti-RSV F antibody titres in the sera of mice that were immunized according to the protocol outlined in Table 1 are summarized in Figure 6.

With the exception of the control animals, the sera of mice immunized with the various RSV formulations contained had anti-F IgG antibodies. The sera from animals that were primed with the ALVAC-F recombinant virus of Example 1 and boosted with either the ALVAC-F recombinant virus or the subunit preparation of Example 35 5 had anti-F IgG1/IgG2a ratios of approximately 1:1. This is in contrast to the anti-RSV F IgG1/IgG2a ratios

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obtained in mice that were primed and boosted with the alum-adjuvanted FI-RSV (8:1) or subunit vaccine (11:1). These results indicate that priming animals with the ALVAC-F recombinant virus results in a balanced anti-RSV 5 F IgG1/IgG2a response and sets the stage for a Th-1 type response.

As shown in Figure 7, the sera of mice that were primed and boosted with the various RSV preparations outlined in Table 1, all had significant levels of RSV-10 specific neutralizing antibodies. The RSV-specific antibody (13 neutralizing titers log₂) significantly higher in animals that were primed with the ALVAC-F recombinant and boosted with the subunit preparation than in mice that were primed and boosted recombinant 15 with the ALVAC-F virus (neutralizing antibody titre 8.8 log₂). Thus, priming animals with the ALVAC-F recombinant virus not only appears sets the stage for a Th-1 type response but also results in the induction of high titres of RSV-specific neutralizing 20 antibodies after boosting with the alum-adjuvanted RSV subunit vaccine.

Example 6

This Example describes the determination of Anti-F 25 antibody titres.

Nunc-MaxiSorp plate wells were coated overnight at room temperature with 2.5 ng of immunoaffinity-purified RSV-F protein diluted in 0.05M carbonate-bicarbonate buffer, pH9.6. Wells were blocked for non-specific 30 binding by adding 0.1% BSA in PBS for 30 min. at room temperature, followed by two washes in a washing buffer of 0.1% BSA in PBS + 0.1% Tween 20. Serial two or fourfold dilutions of mouse serum was added to the wells. After one hour incubation at room temperature, plates were washed five times with washing buffer, and horseradish peroxidase (HRP) labelled conjugate was

added at the appropriate optimal dilution in washing The total IgG assay used F(ab')₂ goat antimouse IaG (H+L specific)-HRP from Jackson Research Laboratory Inc., Baltimore, Maryland. Sheep 5 anti-mouse IgG1-HRP from Serotec, Toronto, Ontario was used in the IgG1 assay and goat anti-mouse IgG2a from Caltag Laboratories, San Francisco, California was used in the IgG2a assay. Following one hour incubation at room temperature, the plates were washed five times with 10 washing buffer, and hydrogen peroxide (substrate) in the presence of tetramethylbenzidine was added. reaction was stopped by adding 2 M sulfuric acid. colour was read in a Multiscan Titertek plate reader at an optical density (OD) of 450 nm. The titre was taken 15 as the reciprocal of the last dilution at which the OD was approximately double. This OD must be greater that the negative control of the assay at the starting dilution. The pre-immune serum of each animal was used as the negative control.

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Example 7

This Example describes the generation of RSV-specific cytotoxic T-cells in mice primed with live recombinant poxvirus and boosted with RSV proteins.

Spleens from two BALB/c mice from each group that were immunized according to the immunization protocol outlined in Table 1 were removed three weeks after the booster dose. Single cell suspensions were prepared and incubated at 2.5x10⁷ cells in RPMI 1640 plus 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS). Gamma-irradiated (3,000 rads) syngeneic spleen cells were infected with RSV at an MOI of 1 for 2 hours. The cells were washed twice to remove free virus and 2.5x10⁷ virus infected feeder cells were added to the 2.5x10⁷ spleen cells in a final volume of 10 mL of complete medium. CTL activity was tested 5 to 6 days following re-stimulation. On the day of the

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assay, effector cells were washed twice with fresh medium and viable cell counts were determined by the BC cells (2×10^6) Trypan blue dye exclusion method. cells), a BALB/c fibroblast cell line, as well as BCH4 5 cells (2 x 10^6 cells), a BALB/c fibroblast T cell line persistently infected with RSV, were pulsed with 200 μCi of Sodium ⁵¹chromate (Dupont) for 90 min. The targets were washed three times with medium to remove free ⁵¹chromium. Viable cell counts of the target cells were 10 determined and target cell suspensions were prepared at 2×10^4 cells/mL. Washed responder T-cells (in 100 µL) were incubated with 2 x 10^3 target cells (in 100 μ L) at varying Effector: Target cell ratios in triplicates in a 96-well V-bottomed tissue-culture plates for 4 hours at 15 37°C with 6% CO₂. Spontaneous and total release of 51chromium were determined by incubating target cells with either medium or 2.5% Triton X-100 in the absence of responder lymphocytes, respectively. Six replicates After 4 hours, plates were of each were prepared. 20 centrifuged at 200 x g for 2 min and 100 μL of supernatant were removed from each well to determine the of ⁵¹chromium released. Percentage 51chromium release was calculated as (Experimental Spontaneous Release)/(Total Release -Release 25 Spontaneous Release) x 100. The Spontaneous Release of 51chromium in the absence of effector cells was found to be between 10 to 15% in these studies.

As shown in Figure 8, CTLs generated from mice that were primed with ALVAC-F recombinant virus and boosted 30 with the subunit vaccine (□), or primed and boosted with the ALVAC-F recombinant virus (Δ) or live mouse adapted virus (♦) lysed BCH4 cells (persistently infected with RSV) at all effector cell dilutions, when compared to the lysis of BC (control) cells. CTL 35 activity was not observed in animals that were primed

and boosted with either the alum-adjuvanted RSV subunit vaccine or F-RSV. Thus, priming animals with the ALVAC-F vector and boosting them with either the ALVAC-F vector or alum-adjuvanted RSV subunit vaccine induced 5 significant levels of CTL activity.

Example 8

This Example describes the protection of mice primed with ALVAC-F recombinant virus and boosted with RSV proteins.

Immunized mice were challenged intranasally with mouse-adapted RSV, A2 subtype. Lungs were aseptically removed about four days later, weighed and homogenized. The number of pfu in the lung homogenate was determined as described by Prince et al. (ref. 32) using VERO cells. The results are shown in Table 2 below.

In contrast to the placebo control animals (groups 6, 7, 8), the lower respiratory tract of mice that were primed with the ALVAC-F recombinant virus and boosted with the alum-adjuvanted RSV subunit preparation was completely protected against live virus challenge. Complete protection was also observed in animals that were immunized with two 1 µg doses of the alumadjuvanted subunit vaccine or given live mouse-adapted RSV.

Boosting ALVAC-F primed animals with the alumadjuvanted subunit preparation resulted in a more durable protective response. It was observed that 3 out of 6 animals that were primed and boosted with the ALVAC-F recombinant virus had low, yet detectable levels of RSV in their lungs. In contrast, virus was not detected in the lungs of mice that were primed with the ALVAC-F recombinant virus and boosted with the subunit preparation.

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SUMMARY OF DISCLOSURE

In summary of this disclosure, the present invention provides a novel immunization strategy to induce protection against paramyxoviridae virus disease, 5 especially RSV, which is safe and effective. Modifications are possible within the scope of this invention.

Table 1: Immunization protocol

GROUP	PRINE	ROUTE OF INOCULATION	BOOST	ROUTE OF
1	ALVAC-F ¹	Intramuscular	Subunit Preparation 2 +alum	Intramuscular
2	ALVAC-F ¹	Intramuscular	ALVAC-F	Intramuscular
3	Subunit preparation + alum	Intramuscular	Subunit vaccine + alum	Intramuscular
4	Live RSV ³	Intranasa)	Live RSV	Intranasal
5	FI-RSV ⁴ + alum	Intramuscular	FI-RSV + alum	Intramuscular
6	Irrelevant ALVAC	Intrarmiscular	Irrelevant ALVAC	Intramuscular
7	PBS + alum	Intramuscular	PBS + ahım	Intramuscular
8	EMEM +5% FBS +5% glycerol	Intranasal	EMEM +5% FBS +5% glycerol	Intranasal

Mice were inoculated with:

- 1 5 X 10⁷ pfu of the ALVAC-F recombinant virus that was prepared according to the procedure outlined in Example 1
- 2 1 μg of RSV subunit vaccine (Example 4) adsorbed to alum (1.5 mg/dose)
- 3 2.5 X 10⁵ pfu of mouse-adapted A2 virus
- ⁴ 100 μl of 100 X formalin-inactivated (FI) RSV vaccine adsorbed to alum.

Table 2: Protective ability of the various RSV formulations in BALB/c mice

Group #	Anti Prime	gen Formulation Boost	Mean virus lung titre (log _{10/} g ± s.d.)
l	ALVAC-F	Subunit preparation + alum	≤ 2.2 ± 0
2	ALVAC-F	ALVAC-F	2.4 ± 0.3
3	Subunit preparation + alum	Subunit preparation + alum	≤ 2.2 ± 0
4	Live RSV	Live RSV	≤ 2.2 ± 0
5	FI-RSV	FI-RSV	2.2 ± 0
6	Irrelevant ALVAC	Irrelevant ALVAC	5.2 ± 0.3
7	PBS + alum	PBS + alum	5.1 ± 0.2
8	EMEM +5% FBS +5%glycerol	EMEM +5% +5% glycerol	5.2 ± 0.4

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CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1. A method of immunizing a host against disease caused by infection by a paramyxoviridae, which comprises:

initially administering to the host an immunoeffective amount of a recombinant virus vector expressing at least one paramyxoviridae virus protein or immunogenic fragment thereof; and

the to host administering subsequently purified immunoeffective amount of at least one paramyxoviridae virus protein or immunogenic fragment thereof of the same at least one paramyxoviridae virus protein as in the initial administration, to achieve a paramyxovirus specific protective immune response in the host.

- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said immune response in the host includes the production of virus specific neutralizing antibodies and/or virus specific cytotoxic T-cell responses.
- 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said paramyxovirus is selected from the group consisting of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and parainfluenza virus (PIV).
- 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said recombinant virus is a recombinant pox virus.
- 5. The method of claim 3 wherein said recombinant virus expresses at least one of the fusion (F), attachment (G) and matrix (M) proteins of RSV or an immunogenic fragment thereof.
- 6. The method of claim 3 wherein said at least one purified RSV protein or immunogenic fragment thereof is selected from the group consisting of the fusion (F), attachment (G) and matrix (M) proteins of RSV or immunogenic fragments thereof.
- 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said recombinant virus is a recombinant pox virus.

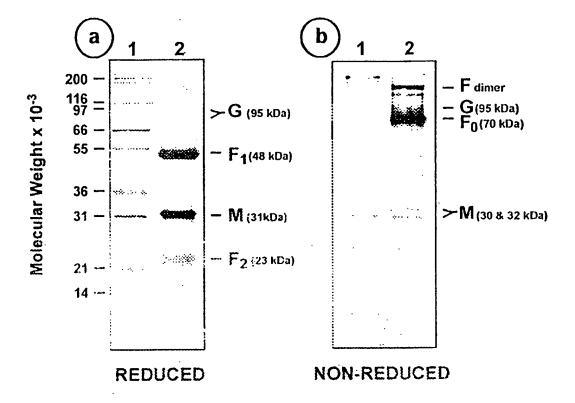
- 8. The method of claim 6 wherein said recombinant virus expresses at least one of the fusion (F), attachment (G) and matrix (M) proteins of RSV or an immunogenic fragment thereof.
- 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one purified protein or immunogenic fragment thereof is administered with an adjuvant.
- 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the adjuvant is alum.
- 11. A recombinant poxvirus containing therein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a paramyxovirus protein or immunogenic fragment thereof in a non-essential region of the recombinant virus genome.
- 12. The recombinant poxvirus of claim 11 wherein said poxvirus is a vaccinia virus.
- 13. The recombinant poxvirus of claim 12 wherein said recombinant virus has non-essential virus-encoded genetic functions inactivated therein.
- 14. The recombinant poxvirus of claim 13 wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes the fusion (F) glycoprotein of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).
- 15. The recombinant poxvirus of claim 14 which is recombinant virus vP1000 (NYVAC-F) (ATCC No. VR-2540).
- 16. The recombinant poxvirus of claim 11 wherein said poxvirus is an avipox virus.
- 17. The recombinant poxvirus of claim 16 wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes the fusion (F) glycoprotein of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).
- 18. The recombinant poxvirus of claim 17 which is recombinant virus vCP181 (ALVAC-F) (ATCC No. VR-2541).
- 19. A recombinant poxvirus containing therein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a paramyxovirus protein or immunogenic fragment thereof in a non-essential region of the recombinant virus genome when used as a medicine.
- 20. The use of a recombinant poxvirus containing therein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a paramyxovirus protein or immunogenic fragment thereof in a non-

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essential region of the recombinant virus genome in the manufacture of a medicament for an immunizing host against disease caused by infection by a paramyxoviridae.

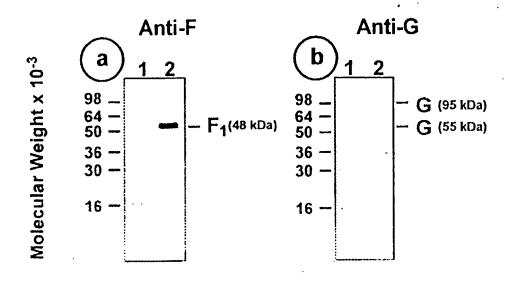
Figure 1 - SDS-PAGE Analysis of RSV Subunit (silver stain)

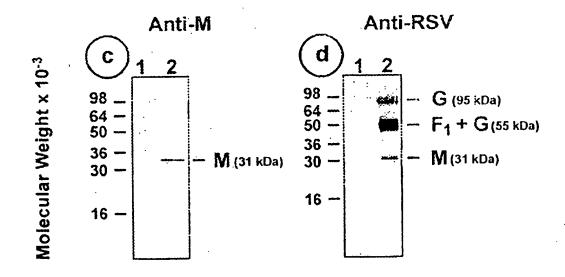


Lane 1 = Molecular Weight Standards Lane 2 = RSV Subunit

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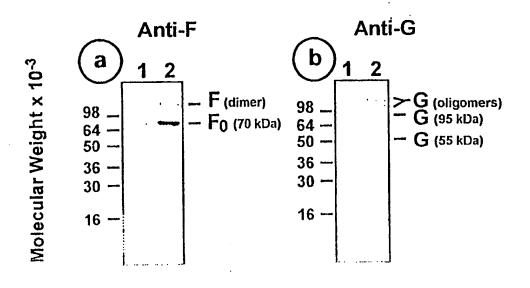
Figure 2 - Western Blot Analysis of RSV Subunit Reduced

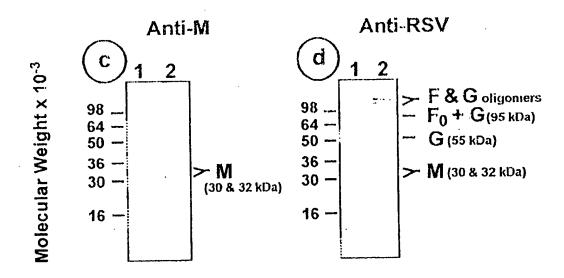




Lane 1 = Molecular Weight Standards Lane 2 = RSV Subunit

Figure 3 - Western Blot Analysis of RSV Subunit Non-Reduced





Lane 1 = Molecular Weight Standards
Lane 2 = RSV Subunit

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Nucleotide sequence of the vCP181 (ALVAC-F) H6 promoted RSV- F insertion and flanking The H6 promoter begins at position 202. RSV-F starts at position 326 and ends at position 2048. sed nences.

FIG.4

ATACATAATGGATITIGITIATCATCAGTTATITIAACATAAGTACAATAAAAGTATTA

CAGAATATCAAATATAGAAACTGTGATAGAGTTCCAACAAAAGAACAACAGACTACTAGA <u>ATTGCAGTTGCTCATGCAAAGCACATCAGCAGCAAACAATCGAGCCAGAAGAGAACTACC</u> **AGATGCTAAGGTAAAATTGATAAAACAAGAATTAGATAAAATAAAAATGCTGTAACAGA** AAGGTTTATGAATTATACACTCAACAATACCAAAAAAACCAATGTAACATTAAGCAAGAA GTTAGACCTCAAAAACTATATAGATAAACAATTGTTACCTATTGTGAATAAGCAAAGCTG AACTAATAGTGAATTATTGTCATTAATCAATGATATGCCTATAACAAATGATCAGAAAAA TGCTGTATCTAAGGTCCTGCACTTAGAAGGAGAAGTGAACAAGATCAAAAGTGCTCTACT GTATACTAGTGTTATAACTATAGAATTAAGTAATATCAAGGAAAATAAGTGTAATGGAAC ATCCACAAACAAGGCCGTAGTCAGCTTATCAAATGGAGTTAGTGTCTTAACCAGCAAAGT 1141 GTTAATGTCCAACAATGTTCAAATAGTTAGACAGCAAAGTTACTCTATCATGTCCATAAT GATTACCAGGGAATTTAGTGTTAATGCAGGTGTAACTACACCTGTAAGCACTTACATGTT TTATCAATCAACATGCAGTGCAGTTAGCAAAGGCTATCTTAGTGCTCTAAGAACTGGTTG <u>ATTAATTAACCCGGGTTAATTAATTAGTTATTAGACAAGGTGAAAACGAAACTATT</u> CGATATCCGTTAAGTTTGTATCGTAATGGAGTTGCTAATCCTCAAAGCAAATGCAATTAC <u>AAGGAAAAGAAGATITCTTGGTTTTTTGTTAGGTGTTGGATCTGCAATCGCCAGTGGCAT</u> **GGTTCTTGAGGGTTGTGTTAAATTGAAAGCGAGAAATAATCATAAATTTATTCATTATCG** AATAAAAATACTTACTTACGAAAAAATGACTAATTAGCTATAAAAACCCGGCCGCTTTTT **FGTAGCTTAATTAGAGCTTCTTTATTCTATACTTAAAAAGTGAAAATAAAAA** CACAATCCTCGCTGCAGTCACATTTTGCTTTGCTTCTAGTCAAAACATCACTGAAGAATT 1021 961 241 361 601 781 841 301 421 481 541 661 721 8

FIG.4 con't

AGGTAACACATTATATGTAAATAAGCAAGAAGGCAAAAGTCTCTATGTAAAAGGTGA CCCACAAGCTGAAACATGTAAAGTTCAATCGAATCGAGTATTTTGTGACACAATGAACAG TAGTAACTGAAAGCTTCTAGCTAGCTAATTTTTATAGCGGCCGGGCTGCAGCTCGAGGAA CATTGTGTCATGCTATGGCAAAACTAAATGTACAGCATCCAATAAAAATCGTGGAATCAT AAAGACATTTTCTAACGGGTGTGTTATGTATCAAATAAAGGGGTGGACACTGTGTCTGT 261 TIGITGGAAATTACACACATCCCCTCTATGTACAACCCAACAAAAAAAGGGGTCAAACA TTGTAAAATTATGACTTCAAAAACAGATGTAAGCAGCTCCGTTATCACATCTCTAGGAGC TITAACATTACCAAGTGAAGTAAATCTCTGCAATGTTGACATATTCAATCCCAAATATGA **ATCTCAAGTCAATGAGAAGATTAACCAGAGTTTAGCATTTATTCGTAAATCCGATGAATT ATTACATCATGTAAATGCTGGTAAATCAACCACAAATATCATGATAACTACTATAATTA1** TTCTTTTTATTGATTAACTAGTCAAATGAGTATATATAATTGAAAAAGTAAAATATAAAAT **ACCAATAATAAATITCTATGACCCATTAGTATTCCCCTCTGATGAATITGATGCATCAAT AGTGATTATAGTAATATTGTTATCATTAATTTGCTGTTTGGACTGCTCCTATACTGTAAGGC** CATATAATAATGAAAC 741 801 861 681 621 441 501 561

FIG.5

and flanking sequences. The H6 promoter begins at position 575. RSV-F starts at position Nucleotide sequence of the vP1000 (NYVAC-F) H6 promoted RSV-F insertion 699 and ends at position 2421.

AGTGTAATGGAACAGATGCTAAGGTAAAATTGATAAAACAAGAATTAGATAAATATAAAA ATGCTGTAACAGAATTGCAGTTGCTCATGCAAAGCACATCAGCAGCAAACAATCGAGCCA AAATAAATACAAAGGTTCTTGAGGGTTGTGAAATTGAAAGCGAGAAATAATCATAAAT CATTAAGCAAGAAAAGGAAAGATTTCTTGGTTTTTGTTAGGTGTTGGATCTGCAA TAAATGCGAACCGATTAAACATAATATCCATTGGAAAAAACACAGGAACGGAATGATTT ATATGTAGGAGGAATATCTGATGTTCGAACTAATACATCTGAAACATACGATAA TAAGAACTGGTTGGTATACTAGTGTTATAACTATAGAATTAAGTAATATCAAGGAAAATA AGAAAAAGATTGTTGGACATTGGATAATGGTCACGTGTTACCACGCAATTATATATGTA TCACTGAAGAATTTTATCAATCAACATGCAGTGCAGTTAGCAAAGGCTATCTTAGTGCTC TCTAAAGTATTTGGAAAGTTTTATAGGTAGTTGATAGAACAAAATACATAATTTTGTAAA CAAATGCAATTACCACAATCCTCGCTGCAGTCACATTTTGCTTTGCTTCTAGTCAAAACA **AGTTAATGTAATATCGAATCTAGTCCTTAGCTATAATCCGATATATGATGGACCAA** CCGGCCGCTTTTTATTAATTAACCCGGGTTAATTAATTAGTTATTAGACAAGGTGA AATAAATCACTTTTTATACTAATATTTAATTAAGCTTGGTACCCTCGAGGGATCCC AAACGAAACTATTTGTAGCTTAATTAAGAGCTTCTTTATTCTATACTTAAAAAGTGA TATTICATIATCGCGATATCCGTTAAGTTTGTATCGTAATGGAGTTGCTAATCCTCAAAG ATTATCATCATTAAACATTCCTAGAATTAATCCCGCTCTATGGTCAGCGCATAATAAATT GTCGACGATTGTTCATGATGGCAAGATTTATATATCTGGAGGTTACAACAATAGTAGTGT 841 601 661 541 181 301 361 481 SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

FIG.5 con't

ATAAGCAAAGCTGCAGAATATCAAATATAGAAACTGTGATAGAGTTCCAACAAAAGAACA AAGGGTCAAACATCTGTTTAACAAGAACTGACAGAGGATGGTACTGTGACAATGCAGGAT ATGATCAGAAAAGTTAATGTCCAACAATGTTCAAATAGTTAGACAGCAAAGTTACTCTA 801 ACACAATGAACAGTTTAACATTACCAAGTGAAGTAAATCTCTGCAATGTTGACATATTCA **ATCCCAAATATGATTGTAAAATTATGACTTCAAAAACAGATGTAAGCAGCTCCGTTATCA** TCGCCAGTGGCATTGCTGTATCTAAGGTCCTGCACTTAGAAGGAGAAGTGAACAAGATCA **ACAGACTACTAGAGATTACCAGGGAATTTAGTGTTAATGCAGGTGTAACTACACCTGTAA** TCATGTCCATAAAAAAAGAGGAAGTCTTAGCATATGTAGTACAATTACCACTATATGGTG TAACCAGCAAAGTGTTAGACCTCAAAACTATAGATAAACAATTGTTACCTATTGTGA CAGTATCTTTCCCACAAGCTGAAACATGTAAAGTTCAATCGAATCGAGTATTTTGTG <u>AAAGTGCTCTACTATCCACAAACAAGGCCGTAGTCAGCTTATCAAATGGAGTTAGTGTCT</u> **GCACTTACATGTTAATAGTGAATTATTGTCATTAATCAATGATATGCCTATAACAA** 621 681 441 501 561 321

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FIG.5 con't

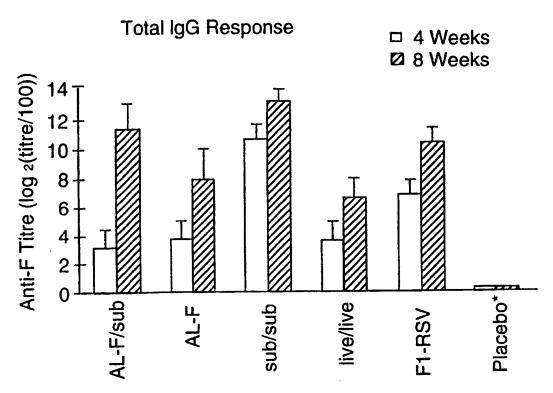
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TACCATTACGITAACAGAGGCCATCTGGAAGGGAATAGCCGCCGGAAACTTTCTAGA TATACTGTAAGGCCAGAAGCACCCAGTCACACTAAGCAAGGATCAACTGAGTGGTATAA TTGAGCGGACCATCTGGTTCAGGAAAGACAGCCATAGCCAAAAGACTATGGGAATATAT ACATACTGAGTTTTTAGGAAATATTTACGGAACTTCTAAAACTGCTGTGAATACAGCGGC 1921 CATCTCTAGGAGCCATTGTGTCATGCTATGGCAAAACTAAATGTACAGCATCCAATAAAA 1981 ATCGTGGAATCATAAAGACATTTTCTAACGGGTGTGATTATGTATCAAATAAAGGGGTGG **AGAGAACAAAGTCTAGATTTTTTGACTTACATAAATGTCTGGGATAGTAAAATCTATCATA** 2041 ACACTGTGTCTGTAGGTAACACATTATATTATGTAAATAAGCAAGAAGGCAAAAGTCTCT AATCCGATGAATTATTACATGTAAATGCTGGTAAATCAACCACAAATATCATGATAA TGGATTTGTGGTGTCCCATACCACTAGATTTCCTCGTCCTATGGAACGAGAAGGTGTCGA <u> FATTAATAATCGTATTTGTGTGGATTTAAACATCGACGGTGTTAGAAGTTTTAAAAA</u> **ATGTAAAAGGTGAACCAATAATAAATTTCTATGACCCATTAGTATTCCCCTCTGATGAAT** TTGATGCATCAATATCTCAAGTCAATGAGAAGATTAACCAGAGTTTAGCATTTATTCGTA GCTAGCTAATTTTTCTTTTACGTATTATATGTAATAAACGTTCACGTAAATACAAAAC CTACTATAATTATAGTGATTATAGTAATATTGTTATCATTAATTGCTGTTGGACTGCTCC **TACTTACCTGCAGAAGCT** 2101 2401 2641 1917 2341 2701 2461 2761 2581

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Anti-RSV F Titres in the Sera of Mice
Immunized with Different Prime / Boost Protocols



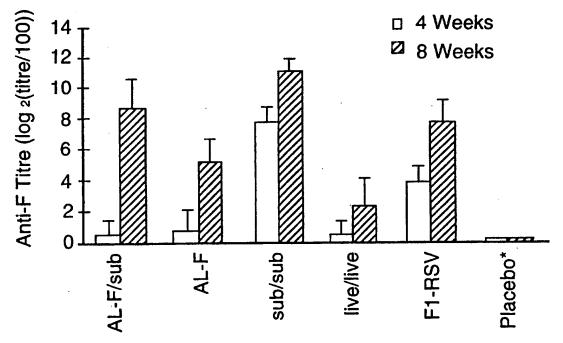
^{*} Placebo control animals (groups 6,7,8,) were immunized according to the protocol outlined in Table 1.

FIG. 6A

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Anti-RSV F Titres in the Sera of Mice Immunized with Different Prime / Boost Protocols

IgG1 Response

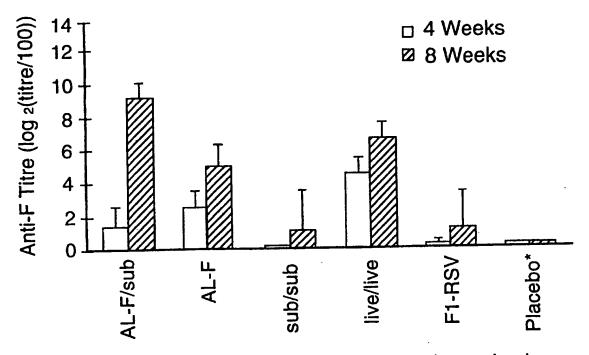


* Placebo control animals (groups 6,7,8,) were immunized according to the protocol outlined in Table 1.

FIG. 6B

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Anti-RSV F Titres in the Sera of Mice Immunized with Different Prime / Boost Protocols

IgG2a Response



* Placebo control animals (groups 6,7,8,) were immunized according to the protocol outlined in Table 1.

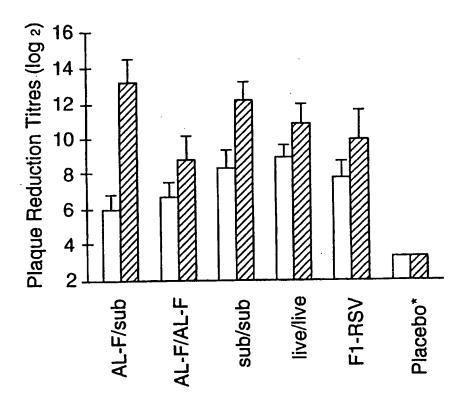
FIG. 6C

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Plaque Reduction Titres in the Sera of Mice Immunized with Different Prime / Boost Protocols

☐ 4 Weeks

8 Weeks

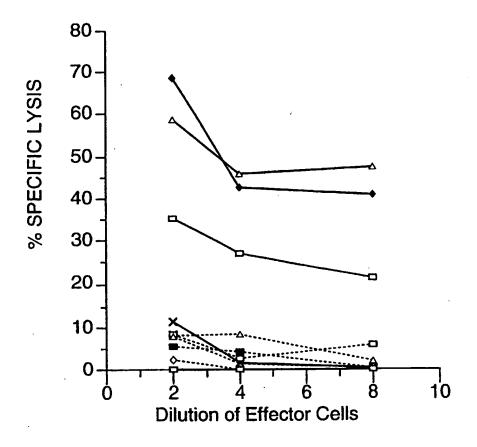


* Placebo control animals (groups 6,7,8,) were immunized according to the protocol outlined in Table 1.

FIG. 7

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Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte Responses in Mice Immunized with Different Prime/Boost Antigens Including Priming with ALVAC-F



Lysis of normal BALB/c fibroblasts, BC (dashed lines) and RSV infected fibroblst cell line, BCH4 (solid lines) by the effector cells from various experimental groups with day 5 effector CTL cultures. The experimental groups include: ALVAC-F prime and subunit+alum boost (=); ALVAC-F prime and ALVAC-F boost (A); Subunit+alum prime and subunit+alum boost (A); Irrelevant ALVAC prime and subunit+alum boost (A); Placebo+alum prime and Placebo+alum boost (A); Live RSV prime and live RSV boost (A); Fl-RSV+alum prime and Fl-RSV+alumboost (A) and Placebo (i.n.) prime and placebo (i.n.) boost (A).

FIG.8

Internal real Application No PCT/CA 97/00498

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A CLASSIF	FICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER A61K39/155		
locording to	International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national class	amostion and IPC	
	SEARCHED ourmentation searched (classification system followed by classification sys	inction symbols)	
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C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of th	e relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Х	EWASYSHYN M.E. AND KLEIN M.H.: for Immunization Against Respi	"Prospects ratory	11-20
	Syncytial Virus" VACCINE RESEARCH, vol. 2, 1993,		
A	pages 263-272, XP002044888 see the whole document		1-10
X	CONNORS M. ET AL.: "Respirate	ory Syncytial	11-14, 19.20
	Virus (RSV) F, G, M2 (22K), ar Each Induce Resistance to RSV but Resistance Induced by M2 a Proteins Is Relative Short-Liv JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, vol. 65, 1991,	Challenge, and N	27,20
A	pages 1634-1637, XP002047927 see abstract		15-18
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X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.		X Patent family members ar	e listed in annex.
"A" docum consi "E" earlier filing o "L" docum which	ent which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or is cited to establish the publication date of another	"V" document of particular relevan	that wan me apposition out ple or theory underlying the as; the claimed invention or cannot be considered to in the document is taken alone os; the claimed invention
"O" docum other	on or other special reason (as specified) sent referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or means sent published prior to the international filing date but	document is combined with o ments, such combination bei in the art.	ng obvious to a person skilled
later	than the priority date claimed	"8" document member of the same	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 24 November 1997		Date of meiling of the internation 1 0. 12, 9	
Name and	mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiann 2	Authorized officer	
	NL - 2280 HV Rijewijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Olsen, L	

Intern sal Application No PCT/CA 97/00498

Category °	cation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 92 01471 A (THE UAB RESEARCH FOUNDATION) 6 February 1992	11-14,
A	see example 7	1-10, 15-18
x	OLMSTED R.A. ET AL.: "Expression of the F glycoprotein of respiratory syncytial virus by recombinant vaccinia virus: Comparison of the individual contributions of the F and G glycoproteins to host immunity" PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, U.S.A., vol. 83, 1986,	11-14, 19,20
A	pages 7462-7466, XP002047928 see abstract	15-18
X	STOTT E.J. ET AL.: "Human Respiratory Syncytial Virus Glycoprotein G Expressed from a Recombinant Vaccinia Virus Vector Protects Mice against Live-Virus Challenge" JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY,	11-13, 19,20
	vol. 60, 1986, pages 607-613, XP002047929	14-18
A	see abstract	
A	WO 94 27636 A (AMERICAN CYANAMID CO.) 8 December 1994 see the whole document	1-10
A	WO 87 04185 A (UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA) 16 July 1987 see the whole document	1-10
		·

amational application No.

PCT/CA 97/00498

Boxi	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inte	ernational Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. X	Claima Nos.: $1-10$ because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: Althoug claims $1-10$ are directed to a method of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. [Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3.	Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Boxii	Observations where unity of Invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Inte	emational Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
1.	As all required additional search lees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2.	As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3.	As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.	No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remar	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Information on patent family members

Internir el Application No PCT/CA 97/00498

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